

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 168886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: ALLEGED THREAT AGAINST AMBASSADOR JOVA

REF: STATE 165749, MEXICO 8628

1. DEPARTMENT UNABLE TO FULLY ANSWER QUESTIONS SET FORTH
IN REFTEL, HOWEVER, FOLLOWING INFORMATION HAS BEEN MADE
AVAILABLE BY CUSTOMS. CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM DATED JULY 1
RELATES THE FOLLOWING:

TWO MEXICAN STUDENT GROUPS, THE CONFEDERACION DE ESTUDIANTES MEXICANOS (CES) AND THE ESTUDIANTES MOVIMIENTO POPULAR PARA DE LIBERACION DE MEXICO (EMPLM), HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE IN THE MEXICALI AREA WITH TWO U.S. GROUPS, THE NEW WORLD LIBERATION MOVEMENT (NWLM) AND THE WEATHER UNDERGROUND (WU). THE RULING CADRE OF THE EMPLM ARE ALLEGEDLY MEMBERS OF THE 23RD OF SEPTEMBER GROUP. TWO OF THE CADRE HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS IGNACIO DEL CASTILLO AND FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ.

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THE TWO MEXICAN GROUPS ARE CURRENTLY BRINGING PEOPLE INTO THE MEXICALI AREA FOR VARIOUS DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES TO OCCUR FROM JULY 3 TO JULY 28, 1976. ACTIVITIES PLANNED ARE TO INCLUDE KIDNAPPING AND EXECUTION OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE BORDER AREA. AN INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED AS GARZON IS ALLEGEDLY COORDINATING THE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE MEXICAN AND U.S. GROUPS. THE COORDINATOR ON THE U.S. SIDE WAS NOT IDENTIFIED. GARZON IS ALLEGEDLY A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST OR SOCIALIST PARTY IN MEXICO.

THE LEADERS OF THE MEXICAN GROUPS HAVE BEEN TELLING THE MEMBERS THAT THEIR INTENDED ACTIVITIES WILL HAVE THE TACIT APPROVAL OF PRESIDENTE LUIS ENCHEVERRIA AS HE PLANS TO USE THE ACTIVITIES AS A "FRONT" FOR DECLARING MARTIAL LAW PRIOR TO LOPEZ-PORTILLOS ELECTION ON JULY 4, 1976.

AN INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED AS SALVADOR PONCE-ACOSTA, AKA CHAVO, IS THE "SECRETARY" FOR THE EMPLM AND HAS BECOME EXTREMELY FRIGHTENED IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MEMBERS ARE NOT JUST "TALKING ANY MORE" BUT ARE READY TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE INTENDED ACTIVITIES. AN AREA IN MEXICALI KNOWN AS EJIDO ZACATECAS APPEARS TO BE A FOCAL POINT FOR MANY ACTIVISTS. PONCE HAS STATED THAT HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE IN THE BORDER AREA BY JULY 3, 1976. HE WANTS TO RUN BECAUSE OF WHAT HE FEELS WILL BE REPRISALS FROM THE AUTHORITIES. HE ALSO INDICATED HE IS "WILLING TO SELL THE CODES." SOURCE COULD NOT FURTHER EXPLAIN PONCE'S STATEMENT REGARDING "THE CODES" BUT SAID PONCE SEEMED TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THEM.

THE MEXICAN GROUPS ARE OPERATING FROM UABC IN MEXICALI.

2. A SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT DATED JULY 2, 1976, REFLECTS THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SOURCE STATES THE ACTIVITIES PLANNED BETWEEN JULY 3 AND JULY 28 HAVE FINALIZED. HE HAS IDENTIFIED THE COORDINATOR FOR THE U.S. GROUPS AS ALLEN ARMSTRONG, A U.S. CITIZEN, CURRENTLY RESIDING IN MEXICALI.

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THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 19-20, 1976, A LARGE CACHE OF WEAPONS IDENTIFIED AS CZECK SCORPIONS, WERE SMUGGLED FROM THE U.S. INTO MEXICO. SMUGGLING ROUTE WAS IDENTIFIED AS WEST OF MT. SIGNAL, APPROXIMATELY 14 MILES WEST OF CALEXICO, CALIFORNIA. THE TWO GROUPS TRANSPORTING THE WEAPONS ALLEGEDLY MOVED THE WEAPONS DURING THE NIGHT AND UTILIZED SMALL INFRA-RED BEAMERS TO IDENTIFY EACH OTHER. THE U.S.

GROUP TRANSMITTED THE CODE WORD "CZECK SCORPION" AND THE RECOGNITION SIGNAL FROM THE MEXICAN GROUP WAS "ADQ". THE WEAPONS, NUMBER UNKNOWN, WERE CROSSED SAFELY.

SOURCE ALSO STATED THE WEAPONS WERE TO BE USED TO "HIT" THE POLICE STATION IN MEXICALI, B.C., MEXICO, THIS WEEKEND; JULY 3-4, 1976. SOURCE MENTIONED SOME TYPE OF OPERATION PLANNED AGAINST THE POLICE STATION IN TIJUANA, B.C., MEXICO, DURING THE SAME PERIOD BUT DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WAS PLANNED.

SOURCE STRESSED THAT A RADIO MESSAGE RECEIVED TWO DAYS AGO (HAM-RADIO) WAS DECODED AND INDICATED THAT "AN OPERATION IS ON AND SET FOR SUNDAY IN MEXICO CITY AGAINST AMBASSADOR JOVA. SOURCE WOULD NOT ELABORATE FURTHER.

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE FURNISHED WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. KISSINGER

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